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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 12th November, 1890. [22

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS
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Correspondents forward their names and addresses
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BIRTH.

On the 14th December, 1890, at Melton, the
Post, the wife of Mr. J. H. B. Collins, of [2660]

MARLBOROUGH.

At Bembridge, on the 14th instant, ADDERSON
CAVANEE CAMA, of BEMBRIDGE, daughter
of Mr. and Mrs. B. EXMERE, of Hongkong. [2661]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 15TH, 1890.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION Bill has now
been passed by the Legislative Council, or,
to be correct, by the official majority, and,
presumably little more will be heard of the
matter for some time to come. The colony
has been treated with great injustice, and no
doubt the unofficial members of Council will
hear that injustice in mind and do their best
to secure reconsideration of the subject when
ever opportunity offers; but the matter may
be considered closed, as a present and burn-
ing question, by the passing of the Military
Contribution Bill. It is important, however,
that there should be no misconception as to
the actual facts of the case. The Governor
yesterday said that the Hon. T. H.
WHITEHEAD was mistaken in saying
that Hongkong paid a larger military
contribution than any other colony, for Ceylon
paid £100,000, and there were only 1,500 troops there. His Excellency subsequently corrected this by saying that the actual amount paid by Ceylon was
£139,000 rupees, this would come to
about £70,000 only, or less than Singapore pays. Mr. WHITEHEAD, however,
explained that what he meant was that
Hongkong paid a larger proportion of its
revenue than any other colony. The
population of Ceylon is twelve times that
of Hongkong and its revenue is four
times greater; yet it pays less than twice
what Hongkong pays as military contribu-
tion. And when we say that Ceylon has

four times the revenue of Hongkong we do not
include the municipal revenue of the former
colony, for Ceylon, like the Straits Settlements
and Mauritius, enjoys exemption from the
taxation of its municipal revenue for
military purposes. That is the grievance
of Hongkong, that it is the only portion
of the colony for which the Government
pays a sum equivalent to the amount of
the revenue into general and municipal,
then, in order to place us on the same
footing as Singapore, the percentage levied
for the military contribution ought to have
been made somewhat smaller. As the case
stands now Hongkong pays 17% per cent
on its total revenue, general and municipal,
the Straits pay 17% per cent, on the general
revenue of the colony, the municipal revenue
being exempt; Ceylon pays 7% per cent,
municipal revenue being exempt; and
Mauritius pays 5% per cent, the
municipal revenue being exempt; there also,
the Excellency mentioned that the number
of troops in Ceylon was less than here,
but that is rather beside the question;
fortified towns in the United Kingdom are
not called upon to pay any higher taxation
than unfortified towns, nor is there any
better reason why colonies where for the
general interests of the Empire a large
garrison has to be maintained should be
called upon to contribute more in money
to the cost of Imperial defence than colonies
where the garrison is smaller; indeed
Malta and Gibraltar, where very large
garrisons are maintained, escape the military
contribution altogether. Naturally no
contribution could be expected from a place
like Gibraltar, which is a fortress pure and
simple, its trade being insignificant, but the
example serves to show how little the
strength of the garrison has on the question.
Hongkong does not object to being placed
on the same basis as Singapore, but there is
no reason whatever why we should have to
pay more.

There were 2,813 visitors to the City Hall
Museum, of whom 206 were Europeans.

We have received two instantaneous photo-
graphs of the Regatta from Mr. KUANG-SUNG.
One of them shows the finish of the International
Regatta and the other the finish of one of the snake
boat races. The photographs are capital pictures
and well worth purchasing as interesting
souvenirs of the 1890 regatta.

Four gun birds, and three companions of a
doubtful character, were charged at the Police
Court yesterday with being on the premises of
the old Victoria Hotel for an unlawful purpose.
They were arrested by Detective Sergeant
Moliver. Sentence of three months' imprisonment
was passed upon the four notorious criminals
and their three companions were sent to
gaol for six weeks with hard labour.

Fourteen gamblers were caught in a house
on Sunday night, and yesterday they were taken
before the Magistrate. It transpired that one
of the number picked up a stool when the raid
was made and strode p. c. Graham over the eye,
but the constable was not able to say whether
it was his assailant and a charge of assault could not
therefore be made. Two of the gamblers were
sent to gaol for six weeks with hard labour.

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A very enjoyable organ recital was given at
Union Church yesterday afternoon by Mr.
George Grumble, assisted by Mrs. P. Sadler,
Mr. G. P. Lammert, and Mr. E. Mirey, who
gave vocal solos. Mrs. Sache's rendering of
Sebastian Bach's "In Dilemma Haende" and two
Christmas carols was a treat which will not
soon be forgotten by those who had the pleasure
of hearing it.

The Acting COLONIAL TREASURER
seconded.

CARRIED.

THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER
seconded.

